USCA4 Appeal: 22-4689 Doc: 12-5 Filed: 01/18/2023 Pg: 1 of 44

> IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 1 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA 2 3 4

1

United States of America,

5 Plaintiff,

Criminal Action No. 3:21-cr-49-2 6 VS.

7 Diana Toebbe,

Defendant. 8

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10 Proceedings had in the Plea Hearing in the 11 above-styled action on September 27, 2022, before the Honorable 12 Robert W. Trumble, Magistrate Judge, at Martinsburg, 13 West Virginia.

14 15

APPEARANCES

16 On behalf of the United States of America:

17 Jarod J. Douglas Assistant United States Attorney United States Attorney's Office 18 P.O. Box 591 19 Wheeling, West Virginia 26003

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Jessica Lieber Smolar Assistant United States Attorney United States Attorney's Office 700 Grant Street Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

24 The defendant was present in person.

25 Proceedings reported by means of digital recording; transcript produced by computer-aided transcription.

> Kate A. Slayden, CCR, RPR 217 West King Street, Room 214, Martinsburg, WV 304-267-5688

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1 APPEARANCES (Continued) 2 3 On behalf of the United States of America: 4 S. Derek Shugert, Esq. United States Department of Justice 5 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20530 6 7 On behalf of the defendant: 8 Barry P. Beck, Esq. 9 Power, Beck & Matzureff Law Offices 308 West Burke Street 10 Martinsburg, WV 25401 11 12 Jessica Carmichael, Esq. Carmichael, Ellis & Brock, PLLC 13 108 N. Alfred Street, 1st Floor Alexandria, VA 22314 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 2.2 23 24 25

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(Digitally-recorded proceedings in open court.) 1 (September 27, 2022, 9:04 A.M.) 2 3 4 THE COURT: Thank you. Please be seated. All right. 5 Good morning, everyone. Chad, would you call the case for me, please. 6 7 THE CLERK: Certainly. This is the case of the 8 United States of America versus Diana Toebbe, Criminal Number 9 3:21-cr-49, defendant 2. 10 The government is represented by counsel, Jarod Douglas, 11 Jessica Smoler, and Derek Shugert. The defendant is present in 12 person and by counsel, Barry Beck and Jessica Carmichael. 13 Are the parties ready to proceed? MR. DOUGLAS: The government is ready, Your Honor. 14 15 MR. BECK: Mrs. Toebbe is ready, Your Honor. 16 THE COURT: All right. Good morning, everyone. 17 We're scheduled for a binding plea to an indictment this 18 morning. And as an initial matter, there may be people who are 19 monitoring this proceeding by electronic means, and I would 20 caution anybody that is or will be monitoring by electronic 21 means to mute their microphones and not to cause any disruption 22 during the course of this hearing. 23 So with that in mind, who will be speaking? Well, I'll be 24 directing questions to both of you, but who will be primarily 25 speaking on behalf of the defense? Mr. Beck, you?

MR. BECK: I will, Your Honor. 1 THE COURT: All right. Very well. 2 3 Mr. Beck, it's my understanding that Ms. Toebbe desires to 4 plead guilty to the charge contained in Count 1 of the original indictment; is that correct, sir? 5 MR. BECK: It is, Your Honor. 6 7 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. 8 Ms. Toebbe, would you please stand, raise your right hand, 9 and be sworn by the clerk. 10 (The defendant was sworn in.) 11 THE DEFENDANT: I do. Thank you. 12 THE CLERK: 13 THE COURT: Thank you. Please be seated. 14 Ms. Toebbe, do you understand that you are under oath, and 15 if you answer any of my questions falsely, your answers may 16 later be used against you in another prosecution for perjury or 17 for making a false statement? 18 THE DEFENDANT: I do. 19 THE COURT: Do you understand that if you lie, it may 20 result in a higher sentence for you? 21 THE DEFENDANT: I do. 2.2 THE COURT: Now, during the course of this hearing, 23 I'm going to be asking you several questions. At any point, 24 you should feel free to ask questions, ask for an explanation 25 if you do not understand my question, or ask me to pause the

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    proceedings so that you may confer with your counsel. Do you
    understand?
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              THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.
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              THE COURT: Would you state your full name for the
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   record, please.
              THE DEFENDANT: Diana Smay Toebbe.
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              THE COURT: Ms. Toebbe, how old are you?
              THE DEFENDANT: I'm forty-six.
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              THE COURT: And how much education have you had?
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              THE DEFENDANT: I have a Ph.D.
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              THE COURT: So you can read, write, and understand
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    English?
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              THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.
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              THE COURT: Have you recently been under the care of
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    a doctor, psychiatrist, or other medical professional for any
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    serious physical or mental illness, including treatment for an
17
    addiction to drugs or alcohol?
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              THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
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              THE COURT: Does any of the treatment that you've
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    received affect your ability to communicate with your
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    attorneys?
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              THE DEFENDANT:
                              No.
23
              THE COURT: Does it affect your ability to understand
24
    the charges that are pending against you?
25
              THE DEFENDANT: No.
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1 THE COURT: Did it affect your ability to participate 2 in your defense of this matter? 3 THE DEFENDANT: No. 4 THE COURT: Did it affect your ability to understand the terms and conditions of the plea agreement that was offered 5 by the government? 6 7 THE DEFENDANT: No. THE COURT: Are you currently using any form of a 8 9 controlled substance or any medication or alcohol that might 10 affect your ability to understand this proceeding? 11 THE DEFENDANT: No. 12 THE COURT: Mr. Beck, Ms. Carmichael, do either of 13 you have any reason to question the competence of your client, 14 Ms. Toebbe? 15 MR. BECK: I do not, Your Honor. 16 MS. CARMICHAEL: No, Your Honor. 17 THE COURT: Ms. Toebbe, are you here today to enter a guilty plea as part of a written plea agreement? 18 19 THE DEFENDANT: I am. 20 THE COURT: Ms. Toebbe, I find that you are competent 21 and capable of entering an informed plea. 2.2 Ms. Toebbe, my name is Robert Trumble. I'm the United 23 States Magistrate Judge. You are charged with a felony 24 offense. You have the right to have this plea taken by an 2.5 Article III judge, sometimes called a district judge. Only you

can give up that right, and I can only hear your plea if you agree to it by signing a waiver. 2 3 Now, I have on my bench a waiver that appears to bear your 4 signature. So first of all, did you, in fact, sign this waiver? 5 THE DEFENDANT: I did. 6 7 THE COURT: Did you discuss it with your attorneys 8 before you signed it? 9 THE DEFENDANT: I did. 10 THE COURT: Do you understand the purpose for the 11 waiver is to allow me to hear your plea today; is that correct? 12 THE DEFENDANT: I do. 13 THE COURT: Did anyone force or pressure you into 14 signing the waiver? 15 THE DEFENDANT: No, sir. 16 THE COURT: Mr. Beck, Ms. Carmichael, do either of 17 you -- is it your understanding that your client agrees to the waiver? 18 19 MR. BECK: Yes, Your Honor. 20 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. I find that the 21 waiver has been properly executed and direct that it be filed. 2.2 Now, Ms. Toebbe, do you understand that you have the right 23 to be represented by counsel at every stage of these 24 proceedings, including your sentencing, and if you could not 25 afford counsel, you have a right to have counsel appointed in

1 your behalf? THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 2 3 THE COURT: Mr. Beck, do you or any member of your 4 office represent anyone, including codefendants, who might be interested in the outcome of this matter? 5 MR. BECK: No, Your Honor. 6 7 THE COURT: Ms. Carmichael, do you or any member of your office or firm represent anyone who might -- including 8 codefendants, who might be interested in the outcome of this 10 matter? MS. CARMICHAEL: No, Your Honor. 11 12 THE COURT: Thank you. 13 All right. Ms. Toebbe, let me ask you some questions about 14 the representation that you've received. Do you believe that 15 you've had adequate time to discuss your case fully with your 16 counsel? 17 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 18 THE COURT: Have they been able to answer your 19 questions about how best to proceed in this case? 20 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. THE COURT: Is there anything your lawyers have not 21 2.2 done which you have asked them to do? 23 THE DEFENDANT: 24 THE COURT: Are you completely satisfied with the 25 legal advice that you've received from Mr. Beck and

Ms. Carmichael? THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 2 3 THE COURT: Ms. Carmichael and Mr. Beck, during the 4 time that you represented Ms. Toebbe, has she been cooperative with you? 5 MR. BECK: She has, Your Honor. 6 7 THE COURT: Have you had adequate time to discover 8 the government's case? 9 MR. BECK: Yes, Your Honor. 10 THE COURT: Have you had adequate time to consider 11 the possible defenses to the charge? 12 MR. BECK: Yes, Your Honor. 13 THE COURT: Do either of you know any viable defense 14 to the charge contained in Count 1 of the original indictment? 15 MR. BECK: We do not, Your Honor. 16 THE COURT: Have you had adequate time to consider 17 the possible sentences that may be imposed upon your client? 18 MR. BECK: Yes, Your Honor. 19 THE COURT: Have you discussed all of the issues I 20 just addressed with you with your client, Ms. Toebbe? 21 MR. BECK: We have, Your Honor. 2.2 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. 23 All right. We have a plea agreement in this case. 24 Mr. Douglas, will you be speaking on behalf of the 25 government?

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MR. DOUGLAS: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Would you summarize the contents of the plea agreement for the Court.

MR. DOUGLAS: Yes, Your Honor.

Your Honor, I have here the original version of the plea agreement for the Court's consideration. It's dated September 19, 2022. It's in letter form. It's 8 pages and 20 paragraphs in length.

In the first paragraph, the defendant agrees to plead guilty to Count 1 of the indictment.

Count 2 informs her of the maximum penalties of that plea of guilty, including the maximum term of imprisonment, the maximum term of fine as well as supervised release.

That paragraph also covers her requirement to pay the special assessment — the mandatory special assessment and reflects her understanding that she might be required to pay the costs of any incarceration.

Paragraph 3, Your Honor, of course as we know, we're here on the second plea agreement. This is one paragraph that has changed. Whereas previously the binding term was not more than 36 months of imprisonment, it is now a sentence of imprisonment of not more than the low end of the applicable guidelines range. Which that paragraph goes on to explain the parties' reference to that term "low end" as meaning the lowest number of months of imprisonment available in the applicable

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guidelines range. Of course, the Court still determines the supervised release and the fine if any.

That paragraph continues to reflect the parties' understanding that if the Court does not accept that binding term, then this defendant has the right to withdraw her plea of guilty.

Paragraph 4 remains the same. It's the stipulation with regard to the base offense level of 37 since all that was involved here was confidential classified information. There was no top secret information involved. Only confidential classified information.

Paragraph 5 is new. That is a paragraph in which the government has agreed to move the Court for a downward departure under Section 5K1.1 of the guidelines. Specifically, a request for a three-level reduction which is conditioned upon the defendant fulfilling her obligations under the plea agreement.

Paragraph 6, Your Honor, remains the same. It's the stipulation as to the facts supporting this plea agreement as well as the factual basis for the plea. And, again, the parties have agreed that in lieu of calling a witness later when the Court asks for a factual basis, the government will simply proffer this factual stipulation. But it generally, again, because it's already been outlined before in court, I'll kind of keep it high level. It generally discusses when she

preponderance of the evidence.

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joined the conspiracy during the charged period, what the conspiracy's object was, what her contribution to the conspiracy was. Then it goes into specific sort of overt acts in support of the conspiracy that occurred on June 26, 2021, in this district; July 31, 2021, outside of this district in Pennsylvania; August 28, 2021 — onto the next page, page 3 — which occurred in Virginia; and then October 9, 2021, the last dead drop that was involved in this case and the arrest which also occurred in this district.

Paragraph 7 is the Booker waiver. That remains the same.

To the extent there are any facts that need to be determined, it would be determined by the sentencing judge by a

Paragraph 8 reflects the defendant's agreement to be completely forthright and truthful of all questions made of her. So it's a cooperation paragraph. That goes on to have other specific instances of cooperation that she's agreed to, including helping to access the electronic devices, helping to locate and retrieve the \$100,000 that was paid by the FBI, and helping to locate all the classified information.

Now, she has fulfilled those obligations I can report. Of course, we'd still keep this in the plea agreement in case there's any other cooperation that is needed in the future, but she has aided in the return of the \$100,000 specifically.

Paragraph 9 includes the limited use immunity that goes

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along with that cooperation that she'll be required to provide under paragraph 8.

Paragraph 10 reflects her understanding and agreement that she shall not have contact with any foreign government or agents thereof except with the express written permission of the FBI unless such contact is solely for the purpose of obtaining a visa for foreign travel, entering and departing a foreign country through customs control, or otherwise related to lawful international travel. She shall not accept any benefit from any foreign agent.

Moving on to page 5, paragraph 11. That paragraph reflects the defendant's knowingly and voluntarily giving up any right to additional discovery in this case; and if there are any pending requests, which I don't believe there are, those are waived as well.

Paragraph 12 reflects the defendant's understanding and agreement that no later than 30 days following the sentencing hearing, she will, through her attorneys, return to the United States all discovery provided by the United States in this case with the exception of any classified materials that this office has given the defendant and for which we've provided express written permission to retain. That has other provisions related to that topic ending in paragraph 12.

Paragraph 13 states that without limitation to the government's right to forfeit all property subject to

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forfeitures permitted by law, she does forfeit and abandon right, title, and interest to some specific items. Of course that's the papers, the digital media, and the electronic devices seized from her residence, her vehicles, and Mr. Toebbe's Naval Reactors offices in October of 2021.

Paragraph 14 reflects the government agreement to advise

the Court of the defendant's forthrightness and truthfulness or failure to be forthright and truthful and asks the Court to give it such weight as it deems appropriate. That paragraph also contains the government's agreement to move to dismiss the remaining counts of the indictment against this defendant at the sentencing hearing.

Paragraph 15 contains nonbinding sentencing recommendations despite the fact that this is a binding plea agreement. Specifically, that if the probation office finds she accepted responsibility, which it has, and it should continue to do so, that we will concur in that two-level reduction.

In addition, a third-level reduction for timely acceptance of responsibility, which was conditioned upon the timely execution of this plea agreement on or before September 23, 2022, and I can report that it was so timely executed.

Moving on to page 6, paragraph 16 covers when the plea agreement is effective which is of course as soon as it is signed. It covers things that she could do that might cause the release of the government's obligations under the plea

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agreement, none of which has occurred, and sort of covers those scenarios, however.

Paragraph 17 contains the appellate and habeas corpus waivers in this matter, all of which are based upon the Court sentencing the defendant pursuant to paragraph 3. In other words, pursuant to the binding term. That paragraph is separated into three subparagraphs.

Subparagraph A concerns the appeal of the conviction, paragraph B -- subparagraph B concerns the direct appeal of the sentence, and paragraph C concerns the habeas corpus or collateral attack of both the conviction and sentence all of which she waives, again, if the Court sentences her pursuant to paragraph 3.

In paragraph 18, the government reserves the right to provide the probation office with all relevant information with regard to the background of this defendant.

Paragraph 19 concerns the -- any monetary penalties that might be paid. That paragraph remains the same as we previously summarized.

Finally, paragraph 20 simply emphasizes that the above 19 paragraphs just outlined that's the entire agreement between the parties. There are no other agreements.

The plea agreement was in typeface font addressed to

Jessica Carmichael. Mr. Beck, who went with the plea agreement
to the jail, crossed out Jessica Carmichael and wrote in his

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name, and it appears to be signed by him and the defendant on
    every page. The government attorneys have signed on the final
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    page on behalf of the government.
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              THE COURT: All right. Thank you, Mr. Douglas.
    Would you please tender the plea agreement to Mr. Beck, please.
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              MR. DOUGLAS: So tendered.
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              THE COURT: Thank you.
        Mr. Beck, did Mr. Douglas provide a fair summary of the
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 9
    entire agreement?
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              MR. BECK: He did, Your Honor.
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              THE COURT: Thank you.
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        Ms. Toebbe, do you understand what this agreement does?
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              THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
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              THE COURT: Do you understand what this agreement
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    requires of you?
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              THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
              THE COURT: Do you have any questions about your plea
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18
    agreement?
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              THE DEFENDANT: I do not.
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              THE COURT: I'd like you to take a look at the plea
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    agreement that was just handed to your attorney. First of all,
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    tell me how many pages are in the plea agreement.
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              THE DEFENDANT: There are eight.
24
              THE COURT: And at the bottom of each page, there's a
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    signature line that appears to bear your signature.
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1 Ms. Toebbe, is that your signature at the bottom of each 2 page? 3 THE DEFENDANT: It is. 4 THE COURT: Ms. Toebbe, were each of the paragraphs of the plea agreement discussed with you prior to your reaching 5 an agreement with the government? 6 7 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. THE COURT: Now, do you understand that this is a 8 9 binding plea, meaning that you have agreed to be sentenced to a 10 sentence of imprisonment of not more than the low end 11 applicable guideline range, and the parties have referenced the 12 low end as meaning the lowest number of months of imprisonment 13 available in the applicable guideline range? 14 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 15 THE COURT: Do you understand that because this is a 16 binding plea agreement, the sentencing court may accept the 17 plea agreement, reject it, or defer a decision until it has 18 reviewed your presentence report; and if the Court does not 19 accept the plea, you will have the right to withdraw your plea 20 of guilty? 21 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 2.2 THE COURT: Do you understand that under our concept 23 known as relevant conduct, the Court may take into account any 24 conduct, circumstances, and injuries relevant to the crime to 25 which you are pleading guilty?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 1 THE COURT: Do you understand that under the terms of 2 3 the plea agreement, you and the government have stipulated that 4 the total relevant conduct of the defendant with regard to the original indictment is a base offense level of 37 pursuant to 5 Section 2M3.1(a)(2) because the offense involved the 6 7 communication of restricted data that was classified at the confidential level? 8 9 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 10 THE COURT: Do you understand that the Court is not 11 bound by this stipulation, and if the Court does not accept 12 this stipulation, you don't have the right to withdraw your 13 guilty plea? 14 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 15 THE COURT: As part of your plea agreement, do you 16 understand that you have stipulated to the facts as set forth 17 in paragraph 6 of your plea agreement --

MR. BECK: She has it in front of her, Your Honor.

And, Mr. Beck, would you show that to her. It's paragraph

THE COURT: Ms. Toebbe, is that the stipulation to which you've agreed to?

6 that begins on page 2 and continues to the middle of page 3.

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

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THE COURT: Do you understand that under the terms of the plea agreement, prior to sentencing and pursuant to Section

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5K1.1 of the guidelines, the United States will move to depart downward from the otherwise applicable guideline range; more specifically, the United States will move the Court for a three-level reduction pursuant to Section 5K1.1 of the quidelines which is -- which agreement in this regard is explicitly conditioned upon you fulfilling your obligations under the plea agreement? THE DEFENDANT: Yes. THE COURT: Do you understand that the terms of the agreement -- that under the terms of the plea agreement, you and the government have agreed that you will provide access to and consent to search all electronic devices and accounts owned, possessed, and/or controlled by you and files contained therein; electronic accounts include but are not limited to all Proton mail accounts? THE DEFENDANT: Yes. THE COURT: You also understand that pursuant to the terms of the plea agreement, you and the government have agreed that you will assist federal officials with locating all classified information and restricted data in any form possessed and/or controlled by you or contained in the premises, including electronic devices and accounts possessed and/or controlled by you? THE DEFENDANT: Yes. THE COURT: Do you understand that under the terms of

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shall not knowingly have any contact with any foreign government or agents thereof except with the express written permission of the FBI unless such contact is solely for the purposes of obtaining a visa or for foreign travel, entering or departing a foreign country through customs control, or otherwise related to lawful international travel; that you shall not seek or knowingly accept personally or through another person or entity any benefit from any foreign government or agent thereof; and that such — should such benefit be received by you or some person or entity on your behalf, you will assign such benefit to the United States?

THE DEFENDANT: I understand.

THE COURT: Do you understand that under the terms of the plea agreement, you and the government have agreed that if

the plea agreement, you and the government have agreed that if the defendant withdraws from this agreement, commits or attempts to commit any additional federal, state, or local crimes, or intentionally gives materially false, incomplete, or misleading testimony or information, or otherwise violates any provision of the agreement, the United States will be released from its obligation under the agreement; the defendant, however, may not withdraw the guilty plea entered pursuant to this agreement; that the defendant will be subject to prosecution for any federal criminal violation, including but not limited to perjury and obstruction of justice, that is not

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time-barred by the applicable statute of limitations on the date the agreement was signed; and that any prosecution, including prosecution that is subject to this agreement, may be premised upon any information provided or statements made by the defendant, and such information, statements, and leads derived therefrom may be used against the defendant to further waive any right to claim that the statements made before or after the date of the agreement should be excluded or suppressed under Federal Rule of Evidence 410, Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(f), the sentencing guidelines, or any other provision of the constitution or federal law? THE DEFENDANT: I understand. THE COURT: Ms. Toebbe, does the written plea agreement represent the complete agreement between you and the government? THE DEFENDANT: Yes. THE COURT: Is there anything that you and the government have agreed to that is not contained in that written 19 document? THE DEFENDANT: No. THE COURT: Ms. Toebbe, do you want me to accept the 2.2 plea agreement? THE DEFENDANT: 24 THE COURT: I find that the defendant, Ms. Toebbe, 25 understands and agrees with the terms contained in the plea

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    agreement. I order the original plea agreement be filed as
    part of the record in this case.
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        Mr. Beck, would you tender that to the clerk of the Court
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    for me.
              MR. BECK: Yes, Your Honor.
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              THE COURT: Ms. Toebbe, have you received a copy of
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    the original indictment filed against you?
              THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
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              THE COURT: Have you had an opportunity to read that
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    indictment?
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              THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
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              THE COURT: Would you like me to read the indictment
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    to you or waive -- will you -- or will you waive reading of the
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    indictment in open court?
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              THE DEFENDANT: I waive that.
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              THE COURT: All right. Thank you.
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        Now, you are pleading to Count 1 of the original indictment
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    which charges you with conspiracy to communicate restricted
19
    data in violation of Title 42, United States Code, Section
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    2274(a).
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        Ms. Toebbe, how do you plead to the charge contained in
2.2
    Count 1 of the original indictment?
23
              THE DEFENDANT: Guilty.
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              THE COURT: Now, before I accept your plea, I want to
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   make sure that there's a factual basis for your plea; that you
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understand the nature of the charge against you and the consequences of pleading quilty to the charge; that you understand the constitutional and other legal rights you will give up by pleading guilty; and that you are pleading guilty voluntarily. Ms. Toebbe, you are charged, again, in Count 1 with conspiracy to communicate restricted data in violation of Title 42, United States Code, Section 2274(a). Now, Title 42, United States Code, Section 2274(a) states in its pertinent part as follows: "Whoever, lawfully or unlawfully, having possession of, access to, control over, or being entrusted with any document, writing, sketch, photograph, plan, model, instrument, appliance, note, or information involving or incorporating restricted data, communicates, transmits, or discloses the same to any individual or person, or attempts or conspires to do any of the foregoing, with the intent to injure the United States or with the intent to secure an advantage to any foreign nation, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by imprisonment for life or by imprisonment for any term of years, or a fine of not more than \$100,000 or both." The term "restricted data" as defined in Title 42, United States Code, Section 2014 means all data concerning design, manufacture, or utilization of atomic weapons; the production

of special nuclear material; or the use of special nuclear

material in the production of energy but shall not include data

declassified or removed from the restricted data category pursuant to Section 2162 of this title. 2 3 Do you understand the statute under which you've been 4 charged? 5 THE DEFENDANT: I do. THE COURT: Now, if the government had to go to trial 6 7 in this case, the government would have to prove the following elements of Title 42, United States Code, Section 2274(a) 8 against you beyond a reasonable doubt: First, that you or 10 another person had possession of, access to, control over, or 11 entrusted with the restricted data; second, that you or another 12 person agreed to communicate, transmit, or disclose the 13 restricted data to any individual or person with the intent to 14 injure the United States or to secure an advantage to any 15 foreign nation which agreement constitutes a conspiracy; third, 16 that you knowingly and voluntarily participated in the 17 conspiracy; and fourth, that an overt act was committed in 18 furtherance of the conspiracy in the Northern District of 19 West Virginia. 20 Ms. Toebbe, do you understand the elements of the statute 21 under which you've been charged? 2.2 THE DEFENDANT: I do. THE COURT: Now, Ms. Toebbe, considering those 23 24 definitions, do you consider yourself to be guilty of violating 25 Title 42, United States Code, Section 2274(a)?

THE DEFENDANT: I do.

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THE COURT: Thank you.

Mr. Douglas, would you present your witness or proffer as to what the government would have been able to prove in this case.

MR. DOUGLAS: Yes, Your Honor.

Your Honor, the parties have agreed that the government in this instance will proceed by proffer, specifically proffering the factual stipulation the Court has gone over with the defendant. It's in paragraph 6 of the plea agreement. It says that at some time during the charged period, Ms. Toebbe knowingly and voluntarily joined a conspiracy with her husband, Jonathan Toebbe, to communicate restricted data to another person with the intent to secure an advantage to a foreign nation and that she committed multiple overt acts in furtherance of the conspiracy that paragraph 6 goes on to specify, but specifically she acted as a lookout during three dead drops that Mr. Toebbe serviced.

As the stipulation indicates in the plea agreement, at least two of those occurred during the charged period in Jefferson County, West Virginia, which is within the Northern District of West Virginia, specifically on June 26, 2021, and October 9, 2021. Otherwise, the Court -- or the government simply proffers the remaining paragraphs within paragraph 6 as the factual basis for the plea.

1 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Douglas. Mr. Beck, Ms. Carmichael, do either of you have any 2 3 objection to the proffer as made by the government which 4 incorporates paragraph 6 of the plea agreement? MR. BECK: We do not, Your Honor. 5 THE COURT: Ms. Toebbe, do you have any objection to 6 7 the government's proffer as made which also incorporates paragraph 6 of your plea agreement? 8 9 THE DEFENDANT: No. 10 THE COURT: Ms. Toebbe, is the proffer by the 11 government and the evidence that the government just presented 12 both in verbal form and in paragraph 6 substantially correct? 13 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. THE COURT: Did the government's proffer accurately 14 15 reflect your involvement in what occurred? 16 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 17 THE COURT: All right. Ms. Toebbe, now I need you to 18 explain to me what you did that makes you guilty of conspiracy 19 to communicate restrictive data in violation of Title 42, 20 United States Code, Section 2274(a). 21 THE DEFENDANT: During the time alleged in Count 1 of 2.2 the indictment, I knowingly and voluntarily joined a conspiracy 23 with my husband, Jonathan Toebbe, to communicate restricted 24 data to another person with the intent to secure an advantage 25 to a foreign nation. And in furtherance of the conspiracy, I

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acted as lookout for my husband when he serviced three dead
    drops, one of which occurred in Jefferson County,
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 3
    West Virginia, which is within the Northern District of
 4
    West Virginia.
              THE COURT: And these acts occurred on or about from
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   April 1, 2020, through on or about October 9, 2021, at or near
 7
    Jefferson County in the Northern District of West Virginia?
              THE DEFENDANT: That's correct.
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              THE COURT: Again, Mr. Beck, Ms. Carmichael, are you
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    satisfied that if this case went to trial, there would be no
11
    meritorious legal defense to the charge?
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              MR. BECK: We are, Your Honor.
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              THE COURT: And are you satisfied Ms. Toebbe's
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    constitutional and other rights have been observed fully?
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              MR. BECK: Yes, Your Honor.
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              THE COURT: And do you concur in her now-stated
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    intention to enter a plea of guilty to this charge?
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              MR. BECK: We do, Your Honor.
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              THE COURT: Ms. Toebbe, I find that there is a
20
    sufficient factual basis for your plea of guilty.
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        Now, Ms. Toebbe, do you understand that you are pleading
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    guilty to a felony offense; and if your plea is accepted,
    you'll be adjudged guilty of that felony offense?
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              THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
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              THE COURT: Do you also understand that such judgment
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may deprive you of valuable civil rights such as your right to vote, your right to hold public office, your right to serve on a jury, and your right to possess a firearm or gun of any kind? THE DEFENDANT: I do. THE COURT: Have you discussed the statutory penalties that you will face as a result of this charge? THE DEFENDANT: Yes. Then you understand that you expose THE COURT: yourself to a maximum penalty of imprisonment for a term of not more than life; a fine of not more than \$100,000; and a term of supervised release of not more than 5 years? THE DEFENDANT: I do. THE COURT: Mr. Douglas, is there any mandatory minimum sentence that the defendant exposes herself to by pleading guilty to Count 1 of the original indictment? MR. DOUGLAS: No, Your Honor. THE COURT: All right. Thank you. Now, Ms. Toebbe, do you understand that supervised release means that after imprisonment, you'll be supervised by the probation office under conditions that will be set by this Court? THE DEFENDANT: I do. THE COURT: Do you also understand that if you violate any of the terms of your supervised release, the Court may revoke the term of your supervised release and order you to

serve a term in prison? 1 THE DEFENDANT: I do. 2 3 THE COURT: Do you understand that you'll be required 4 to pay a special assessment of \$100 for having been convicted of a felony offense? 5 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 6 7 THE COURT: And you understand that you've agreed as 8 a condition of your plea agreement to pay this special assessment before the date of sentencing? 10 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 11 THE COURT: Do you understand that you could pay --12 be required to pay -- do you understand that as part of your 13 fine, you could be required to pay the cost of incarceration 14 and/or the cost of supervision upon release? 15 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 16 THE COURT: Have you discussed those costs with your 17 counsel? 18 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 19 Then you understand that it now costs THE COURT: 20 \$3,688 per person per month for prison; \$371 per person per 21 month for supervised release; and \$2,980 per month per person 2.2 for a residential reentry center? 23 THE DEFENDANT: I do. 24 THE COURT: Do you understand that the Court has the 25 authority to order restitution in your case?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 1 THE COURT: And do you understand that the government 2 3 may seek forfeiture in your case? 4 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. THE COURT: Do you understand that the forfeiture of 5 certain assets is part of the sentence that may be imposed in 6 7 your case? 8 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do. 9 THE COURT: Do you understand that pursuant to the 10 terms of paragraph 13 of your plea agreement, you've agreed to 11 forfeit and abandon to the United States all of Ms. Toebbe's 12 right, title, and interest in the following items that 13 Ms. Toebbe agrees constitutes money, property, and/or assets 14 derived from or obtained by Ms. Toebbe as a result of or used 15 to facilitate the commission of Ms. Toebbe's illegal 16 activities: All papers, digital media, electronic devices 17 seized from her residence, her vehicles, and Mr. Toebbe's Naval Reactor's offices in October of 2021? 18 19 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 20 THE COURT: In addition, do you understand that you 21 agree to assist the federal officials in locating and 2.2 retrieving the \$100,000 which the FBI paid to you via Monero 23 cryptocurrency in exchange for the restricted data; in this 24 regard, you voluntarily abandon all right, title, and interest 2.5 and claim to the \$100,000?

1 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. THE COURT: Ms. Toebbe, do you understand that by 2 3 pleading guilty, if you are not a citizen of the United States, 4 you may be removed from the United States, denied citizenship, and denied admission to the United States in the future? 5 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 6 7 THE COURT: Now, do you understand that even though this is a binding plea, the sentencing guidelines may still 8 play a role in your case because the Court can only accept a 10 plea agreement containing a specific sentence if it determines 11 that the sentence is appropriate under the United States 12 Sentencing Guidelines? 13 THE DEFENDANT: I do. 14 THE COURT: Have you and your attorneys discussed the 15 application of the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines to your case? 16 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 17 THE COURT: Do you understand that the Court may 18 defer deciding whether to accept the plea in your case until 19 after the presentence report has been completed? 20 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. THE COURT: Do you understand that both you and the 21 2.2 government will have an opportunity to object to the 23 presentence report? 24 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 25 THE COURT: Do you understand that parole has been

abolished, and that if you are sentenced to prison, you will not be released on parole? 2 3 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 4 THE COURT: Do you understand that in your plea agreement, you've waived your right to have any sentencing 5 determinations made by a jury and for a jury to determine any 6 7 and all facts relevant to the application of the guidelines in conformity with the Supreme Court case, United States v. 8 Booker? 10 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 11 THE COURT: Do you also understand that you agreed 12 for the United States district judge to determine any and all 13 facts and to make a resolution of the application of any and 14 all quideline factors? 15 THE DEFENDANT: I do. 16 THE COURT: Do you understand that you've agreed that 17 the district judge should make any sentencing determinations, 18 including, but not limited to, guideline determinations using 19 the preponderance of the evidence standard? 20 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 21 THE COURT: Now, Ms. Toebbe, do you understand that 2.2 in your plea agreement, you've agreed to give up your right to 23 appeal your sentence under many circumstances, and that is 24 provided that the Court sentence you pursuant to paragraph 3 of 25 your plea agreement being the binding term?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

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THE COURT: Ms. Toebbe, everyone found guilty of a crime in federal court in this district has the right to appeal their conviction and sentence to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia. In Richmond, a three-judge panel reviews the conviction and sentence to see if it was done correctly.

Do you understand that pursuant to the terms of paragraph 17-A of your plea agreement that you have knowingly waived all right pursuant to Title 28, United States Code, Section 1291 or any other statute or constitutional provision to appeal your conviction on any ground whatsoever?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: This includes a waiver of your right to appeal your conviction on the ground that the statute to which you are pleading guilty is unconstitutional or on the ground that the admitted conduct does not fall within the scope of the statute.

THE DEFENDANT: I understand.

THE COURT: Do you understand that pursuant to paragraph 17-B of your plea agreement that you have knowingly and expressly waived all rights conferred by Title 18, United States Code, Section 3742 to appeal whatever sentence is imposed, including any fine, term of supervised release, or order of restitution for any reason, including the

THE DEFENDANT:

Yes.

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establishment of the advisory sentencing guideline range, the determination of your criminal history, the weighing of the sentencing factors, and any constitutional challenges to the calculation and imposition of any term of imprisonment, fine, order of forfeiture, order of restitution, and term or condition of supervised release? THE DEFENDANT: Yes. THE COURT: Do you understand that you only have the right to appeal your guilty plea if you believe it was unlawful or involuntary or that there was some other fundamental defect in the proceeding that was not waived in the plea agreement itself? THE DEFENDANT: I do. THE COURT: However, you agree that your guilty plea today is lawful and voluntary and that there has been no fundamental defect in the proceedings that you're aware of; is that correct? THE DEFENDANT: That's correct. THE COURT: Do you also understand that everyone has the right to challenge their conviction or sentence or the manner in which it was determined in a post-conviction proceeding, sometimes called a habeas corpus petition or collateral attack, under Title 28, United States Code, Section 2255?

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THE COURT: Do you understand that pursuant to the terms of paragraph 17-C of your plea agreement that you have waived your right to challenge the conviction or the sentence which is within the maximum provided in the statute of conviction or the manner in which it was determined in any post-conviction proceeding, including any proceeding under Title 28, United States Code, Section 2255? THE DEFENDANT: Yes. THE COURT: Do you understand that your only legal remedies on appeal or collateral attack are for claims of ineffective assistance of counsel or prosecutorial misconduct? THE DEFENDANT: I do. THE COURT: However, you agree that there is currently no known evidence of ineffective assistance of counsel or prosecutorial misconduct --THE DEFENDANT: I do. THE COURT: -- is that correct? THE DEFENDANT: Correct. THE COURT: Have you discussed the waiver of these 20 important appellate rights with your attorneys? THE DEFENDANT: Yes. THE COURT: Having done so, do you still wish to 23 waive these rights? THE DEFENDANT: Yes. THE COURT: Mr. Beck, Ms. Carmichael, do you believe

that the defendant fully understands the importance of the rights she is waiving? 2 3 MR. BECK: We do, Your Honor. 4 THE COURT: All right. Ms. Toebbe, do you understand that should you find some basis on which to file an appeal, 5 with few exceptions, any notice of an appeal must be filed 6 7 within 14 days of judgment being entered in your case? THE DEFENDANT: I understand. 8 9 THE COURT: Based on your responses, Ms. Toebbe, I 10 find that you understand the nature of the charge and the 11 consequences of a guilty plea to the charge. 12 Now, Ms. Toebbe, do you understand that you have the right 13 to continue to plead not guilty to the charge? 14 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 15 THE COURT: Do you also understand that by pleading 16 guilty, you give up your right to a speedy and public trial by 17 jury? 18 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 19 THE COURT: Do you also understand that by pleading 20 guilty, you give up your right to force the government to come 21 forward with witnesses and evidence against you? 2.2 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 23 THE COURT: Do you understand that you would have 24 been presumed innocent until the government presented enough 25 evidence to satisfy both the judge and a jury beyond a

reasonable doubt of your guilt? THE DEFENDANT: I do. 2 3 THE COURT: Do you understand that when you admit 4 your guilt as you have here, you relieve the government of the burden of proving your guilt? 5 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 6 7 THE COURT: Do you understand that you would have had the right to the assistance of counsel at trial? 8 9 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 10 THE COURT: Do you understand that you and your 11 attorneys, Ms. Carmichael and Mr. Beck, would have had the 12 right to confront and cross examine your accusers and to test 13 the truth of what they said? 14 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 15 THE COURT: Do you understand that by pleading 16 guilty, you give up that right? 17 THE DEFENDANT: I do. 18 THE COURT: Do you understand that had you desired to 19 go to trial and wished to call witnesses that you would have been entitled to the services of the U.S. Marshal to bring 20 21 witnesses to court under subpoena? 2.2 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 23 THE COURT: Do you understand that by pleading 24 quilty, you give up your right to call witnesses except at your 2.5 sentencing hearing?

THE DEFENDANT: I do. 1 THE COURT: Do you understand that you would have had 2 3 the right to go to trial and -- you understand that you would 4 have had the right to move to suppress or keep away from the jury's hearing and consideration any evidence of any nature 5 that had been illegally or unlawfully obtained? 6 7 THE DEFENDANT: I do. THE COURT: Do you understand that had you desired to 8 9 go to trial that you would have had the right to testify at 10 trial? 11 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 12 THE COURT: However, you understand that you could 13 not have been compelled or forced to testify at trial? 14 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 15 THE COURT: Do you understand that you'd have had the 16 right to go to trial and remain silent; that is, not take the 17 witness stand or call any witnesses or present any evidence 18 whatsoever on your own behalf? 19 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 20 THE COURT: Do you understand that the Court would 21 have instructed the jury that they could not convict you 2.2 because you'd exercised your constitutional right to remain silent but could only base their decision on an offer of proof 23 24 from the government? 25 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

1 THE COURT: Do you understand that you give up your 2 right to a unanimous verdict from a jury? 3 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 4 THE COURT: Mr. Beck, Ms. Carmichael, do you believe that Ms. Toebbe understands the consequences of her quilty 5 plea? 6 7 MR. BECK: We do, Your Honor. THE COURT: Ms. Toebbe, I find that you understand 8 9 the constitutional and other legal rights you are giving up by 10 pleading guilty. Now, Ms. Toebbe, knowing all of those things, do you still 11 12 wish to plead guilty at this time? 13 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 14 THE COURT: Has any person forced you, threatened 15 you, coerced you, intimidated you, or talked you into entering 16 a guilty plea against your will? 17 THE DEFENDANT: No. 18 THE COURT: Are you acting voluntarily and of your 19 own free will in entering this guilty plea? 20 THE DEFENDANT: I am. 21 THE COURT: Ms. Toebbe, are you pleading guilty 2.2 because you are guilty of the crime charged in Count 1 of the 23 original indictment? 24 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 25 THE COURT: Ms. Toebbe, has anyone promised you or

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told you something that is different from what I've told you
    today to get you to plead guilty?
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              THE DEFENDANT: No.
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              THE COURT: Is the plea the result of any promises
    other than those promises specifically contained in your
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    written plea agreement?
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              THE DEFENDANT: No.
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              THE COURT: Are you pleading guilty to protect
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    anyone?
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              THE DEFENDANT:
                              No.
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              THE COURT: Has anyone promised or predicted the
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    exact sentence which will be imposed upon you in this matter?
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              THE DEFENDANT: No.
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              THE COURT: Then you understand that at this time, no
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    one could know the exact sentence which will be imposed in your
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    case?
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              THE DEFENDANT: I understand.
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              THE COURT: Ms. Toebbe, have you been able to fully
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    understand what is going on in these proceedings today?
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              THE DEFENDANT:
                             Yes.
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              THE COURT: Based on your responses, I find that your
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    guilty plea is voluntary.
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        Now, again, at this time, Ms. Toebbe, do you have any
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    questions or second thoughts about entering a plea of guilty to
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   this charge?
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THE DEFENDANT: I don't. 1 THE COURT: Would you please stand. 2 3 How do you plead to Count 1 of the original indictment 4 charging you with conspiracy to communicate restricted data? 5 THE DEFENDANT: Guilty. THE COURT: Thank you. Please be seated. 6 7 In the case of United States versus Diana Toebbe, I find that Ms. Toebbe is fully competent and capable of entering into 8 an informed plea. I find that there is a sufficient factual 10 basis for her plea of guilty. I find that Ms. Toebbe 11 understands the nature of the charge and the consequences of a 12 quilty plea to the charge. I find that Ms. Toebbe understands 13 the constitutional and other legal rights she is giving up 14 because of her plea, and I find that Ms. Toebbe's plea is 15 voluntary. 16 While I defer accepting the terms of the plea agreement and 17 adjudging the defendant guilty to the sentencing court, I do 18 accept the plea of guilty to Count 1 of the original 19 indictment. 20 Ms. Toebbe, the sentencing court must consider the 21 following factors when determining the sentence that you will 2.2 The nature and circumstances of the offense; your 23 history and characteristics; the necessity of punishing you, 24 deterring you, protecting the public from you or providing you

with training, medical care, or other treatment; the kinds of

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sentences and sentencing range established by the sentencing guidelines; the need to give defendants with similar criminal records similar sentences; and the need to provide restitution to any victims of the offense.

In order to help the Court consider these factors, the probation office is required to conduct a presentence investigation of you and submit a report to the sentencing court. The information in this report might have an impact on the sentence you ultimately receive. I strongly encourage you to discuss this process and your participation in the same with your attorneys.

Ms. Toebbe, understand that you must not commit any crimes between now and sentencing because there are additional punishments that may be imposed for committing additional crimes. Do you understand?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: Pursuant to Section 6A1 of the United States Sentencing Guidelines, I order the probation office to conduct a presentence investigation of Ms. Toebbe, prepare a draft presentence investigation report, and disclose its contents to the government and Ms. Toebbe. I further direct the probation officer and all parties comply with Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 32 and U.S. Sentencing Guideline Section 6A1.2 regarding deadlines for disclosure, objection, departure motion, or sentencing statement and requirements. The

1 sentencing court will set this matter for sentencing following 2 the receipt of the presentence report. 3 Counsel, if either of you or if any of you anticipate a 4 lengthy sentencing hearing, please notify the Court in advance so that an adequate amount of time can be set aside for that 5 hearing. Judge Groh normally sets hearings for approximately 7 45 minutes so if you anticipate a longer hearing, please file 8 an appropriate motion. 9 MR. DOUGLAS: Thank you, Your Honor. 10 MR. BECK: Understood, Your Honor. 11 THE COURT: All right, Counsel, anything further we 12 need to address before we adjourn this morning? 13 MR. DOUGLAS: Not by the government, Your Honor. 14 MR. BECK: Not for Mrs. Toebbe, Your Honor. 15 THE COURT: All right. With that in mind, the 16 defendant is remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service, and we stand adjourned. Thank you. 17 18 19 (Hearing concluded at 9:45 A.M.) 20 21 2.2 23 24 25

CERTIFICATE

I, Kate A. Slayden, Registered Professional Reporter and Official Court Reporter of the United States District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript to the best of my ability of the digitally-recorded proceedings had in the above-styled action on September 27, 2022, as transcribed by me.

I certify that the transcript fees and format comply with those prescribed by the Court and Judicial Conference of the United States.

Given under my hand this 6th day of December 2022.

/s/Kate A. Slayden

Kate A. Slayden, RPR, CCR Official Reporter, United States District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia